

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 DHA-02

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R 101129Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8574

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0349

GENEVA FOR MEPC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR, XF

SUBJECT SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: MOSCOW 0281 (NOTAL)

1. PRAFDA (JANUARY 10) FRONT-PAGES "DECLARATION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST," WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO SET FORTH MOSCO'S POSITION ON THE EVE OF THE UNSC DEBATE.

2. SUBSTANTIVELY, THE STATEMENT BREAKS LITTLE NEW GROUND. AS MOSCOW HAS SAID BEFORE, A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST MUST BE BASED ON THE RESOLUTION OF THREE "CORE" PROBLEMS: (1) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967; (2) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING

THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN STATE; AND (3) THE GUARANTEE OF THE SECURITY OF ALL STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THEIR RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT THE UNSC DEBATE SHOULD BE BASED ON THE "WELL-KNOWN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AFTER THE 1967 WAR AND AFTER THE 1973 WAR", AND ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS "DIRECTLY CONCERNING THIS QUESTION". THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE UNSC DEBATE, THE STATEMENT CONTINUES, SHOULD BE THE "CREATION OF THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS" FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA MEPC. THE STATEMENT REITERATES THAT THE PLO SHOULD PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, AND ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH ALL OTHER DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES. THE STATEMENT ALSO INCLUDES THE STANDARD CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, AS WELL AS A BLAST AT THE INEFFECTUACY OF POLICIES PURSUED OUTSIDE THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK.

3. AS FOR THE "SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY", THE STATEMENT SAYS THEY "HAVE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID" THE MEPC, AND HAVE BEEN PURSUING SEPARATE "DEALS" WHICH DISREGARD THE KEY QUESTIONS. ISRAEL'S SUPPORTERS, THE STATEMENT CONTINUES, OBVIOUSLY ARE COUNTING ON FINDING A WEAKNESS IN ARAB UNITY, DIVIDING THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND INCREASING THEIR OWN INFLUENCE AND CONTROL.

4. COMMENT - LANGUAGE ON THE US (AND STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH), WHILE INDIRECT, ALSO SEEMS UNUSUALLY FIRM, BUT ASIDE FROM ITS SIGNIFICANCE AS A SCENE-SETTER PRIOR TO MONDAY'S OPENING UNSC SESSION, AND ITS INCLUSION OF ALL THREE POINTS AS REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OVERALL PEACE, THE STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH PYRLIN'S REMARKS (REFTEL) TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIETS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING "ALL RELEVANT" RESOLUTIONS CONFIRMED THAN IN HAVING UNSC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 REVISED. THE LANGUAGE ON GENEVA, ESPECIALLY THE STATEMENT THAT MOSCOW CONSIDERS THE UNSC DEBATE AS SIMPLY A PREPARATORY STEP, CLEARLY REAFFIRMS SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR GENEVA AS THE NUMBER ONE NEGOTIATING FORUM, AND REFLECTS SOME CONCERN THAT THE UN MIGHT STEAL SOME OF THE MEPC'S THUNDER. HOW THIS CONCERN WILL TRANSLATE INTO ACTION AT NEXT WEEK'S UNSC SESSION OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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